

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please delete the heading "CLAIMS" and insert the heading

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-66. (Canceled) without prejudice or disclaimer

67. (New) An eye shield (1) for protecting an eye (2) of a subject, the eye shield (1) comprising:

a patch (3), the patch (3) comprising:

a peripheral frame portion of opaque material defining an outer periphery (4) which is substantially similar in shape to the oval outline shape of an eye cavity, and

a window (24) of transparent material located within and framed by the frame portion, the window (24) being located for facilitating viewing of the open/closed state of the upper and lower eyelids of the subject, the frame portion and the window (24) defining a front major surface (6) and rear major surface (7) the rear major surface (7) being provided for in use abutting the upper and lower eyelids of the subject, an upper portion (14) of the rear major surface (7) of the frame portion defining an upper adhesive portion (14) for securing the patch to the upper eyelid, and a lower portion (15) of the rear major surface (7) of the frame portion defining a lower adhesive portion (15) for securing the patch to the lower eyelid or to a portion

of the face of the subject below the eye, so that when the upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15) are secured to the eyelids or to the upper eyelid and a portion of the face below the lower eyelid, the eyelids are retained closed, the window (24) defining a non-adhesive intermediate area (18) of the rear major surface (7) intermediate the upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15) for in use coinciding with the eyelashes of the upper and lower eyelids of the subject when in the closed state for preventing adhesion of the patch (3) to the eyelashes for facilitating removal of the eye shield (1) without plucking of the eyelashes, and with minimum discomfort to the subject.

68. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which the non-adhesive intermediate

area (18) extends from one side edge (19) to another opposite side edge (20) of the patch (3) between the upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15) thereof.

69. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which an adhesive tab (16) extends downwardly from the lower adhesive portion (15) of the patch (3).

70. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which a pair of adhesive tabs (16) diverging outwardly from each other extend downwardly from the lower adhesive portion (15) of the patch (3).

71. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which the upper adhesive portion (14) defines an area which is substantially similar to the shape of an upper eyelid when closed.

72. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which a non-adhesive tab (32) extends from the patch (3) for facilitating removal of the patch (3) from an eye of the subject.

73. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 72 in which the non-adhesive tab (32) extends upwardly from the upper adhesive portion (14) of the patch (3) for facilitating removal of the patch (3) from the eye in a direction from the upper eyelid downwardly towards the lower eyelid for minimizing discomfort to the subject during removal thereof.

74. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which the patch (3) is of oval shape

and defines a major axis (5), which in use extends substantially parallel to a line defined by the abutting edges of the upper and lower eyelids of the eye when closed.

75. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which the patch (3) defines an upper straight edge (21) for preventing contact of the patch (3) with the eyebrow of the eye, and the upper straight edge (21) of the patch (3) extends parallel to the major axis (5) of the patch.

76. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 75 in which the window (24) defines an upper straight edge (30) which extends parallel to the major axis (5) of the patch (3), and the upper straight edge (30) of the window (24) lies above the major axis (5) of the patch (3).

77. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 76 in which the window (24) is of semi-oval shape, extending downwardly from the upper edge (30) thereof.

78. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which a pair of protective release sheets (34,35) are provided for covering the respective adhesive portions (14,15), the protective

Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Docket Q77922
PCT/IE99/00063
October 9, 2003

release sheets meeting adjacent the major axis (5) of the patch (3), and adjacent edges of the release sheets extending parallel to the major axis (5) of the patch (3), the respective release sheets (34,35) overlapping adjacent the major axis (5) of the patch (3).

79. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which the patch (3) is of a flexible material which is substantially impermeable to chemicals and other solutions used in a surgical procedure or in the preparation of a subject for surgical procedure.

80. (New) An eye shield as claimed in Claim 67 in which the frame portion of the patch (3) and the window (24) are of ethylene vinyl acetate.

81. (New) A pair of eye shields as claimed in Claim 67.